

I.

ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS MADE BY DR. ERNST MAYR
IN NORTHERN DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

BY ERNST HARTERT.

WHEN Dr. Ernst Mayr of the Berlin Museum declared to Dr. Erwin Stresemann that he was willing to make a collecting expedition to New Guinea for Dr. L. C. Sanford and Lord Rothschild we first directed him to the Arfak Peninsula, now called the Vogelkop, the north-western Peninsula of New Guinea (or Papua). On this Peninsula, mostly going out from Andai to the Hatam valley and at Dorey (now called Manokwari), some of the most important collections from New Guinea were made, and many species were first described from Dorey and Arfak Mountains. Thus R. P. Lesson had been there and got together most important material, during the expedition of the French ship *Coquille*. H. von Rosenberg collected there 1869 and 1870, A. B. Meyer of the Dresden Museum also (cf. Sitzungsber. kais. Akad. Wiss. Wien 1874 and other books), and the Italian collectors Beccari (Beccari, Nuova Guinea, 1924), and D'Albertis (1872 to 1877) were there. Later the Dutch collector Bruijn sent his men there to collect many birds, and Guillemard collected near Dorey and Andai for a short time.¹ It was for us of the greatest importance to get series from Arfak, for very often we had fine material from other parts of New Guinea, chiefly from the south-east, but needed series from Arfak, from where we often had only single poor specimens, or none at all. J. Dumas made a small collection on the eastern slopes of the Arfak Mts., going up from Oransbari to Mount Moari (called Mori by Salvadori), which Lord Rothschild and I erroneously believed to be near Humboldt Bay.

Dr. Ernst Mayr sent us some birds from Dorey (Manokwari), and rich series from several localities on the mountains. He first went from Momi to the Manikion district in the southern Arfak region, and then to the Anggi lakes, where obviously former collectors had never been, and got there some new subspecies of species only known from other parts of the island; it seems that only the British butterfly collectors Bros. Pratt had been there, and discovered many rare and new lepidoptera, but did not collect birds in that district, where there seems to be much grass but little forest.

Then Mayr went to the Wandammen Peninsula, where he found a most interesting ornithology; the majority of birds were the same as the ones found in the Arfak Peninsula, while many others were those inhabiting other localities much further eastwards, on the northern coast, etc., and quite a number were new subspecies. Unfortunately the illness of Mayr's men and the most unfavourable weather made a long enough stay there impossible, and he then proceeded to the Hollandia region, and chiefly the Cyclops Mountains, just west of the frontier between the former German colony and Dutch Papua. This region had never been fully explored, though a Dutch expedition under Dr. Wiehmann,

¹ See Cruise of *The Marquesa*, 1886 and second ed. 1889.

accompanied by Prof. Beaufort, Mr. Dumas, and Mr. Walter Goodfellow, were there, and each collected a few skins. Naturally the large collections, chiefly of smaller birds, made here by Dr. Mayr were of the greatest interest, and contained quite a number of new forms.

In working out Dr. Mayr's collections I have been helped by Lord Rothschild and Mr. Arthur Goodson, and I am much obliged to Dr. E. Stresemann in Berlin, Dr. Meise in Dresden, and Dr. Gestro in Genova, who kindly sent me specimens for comparison, and during part of my studies I was assisted by Stresemann and Mayr at Tring!

Dr. Ernst Mayr has kindly written some notes on his expedition, which will appear in front of my list of his birds. He collected 2,700 specimens of 352 species and subspecies. His material has greatly enlarged our knowledge of the birds of New Guinea. About half of his collection is being sent to the American Museum in New York, including half of the type specimens. A third set has been sent to the Museum at Buitenzorg in Java. Dr. Dammerman, the director of the Javan Museum, and his assistant, Mr. Siebers, have very kindly helped Dr. Mayr, given him most useful and experienced collectors and forwarded his skins from Java to England. We are greatly obliged to them and thank them very much.

The collection is wonderfully rich in smaller birds (*Passeres* and others) and in *Rallidae*, but rather poor in *Rapaces* and Owls. In the following pages are described 2 new species and 30 subspecies from Dr. Ernst Mayr's collection, and 9 other subspecies. Only a few eggs were collected.